

June 26 1945

Mr M. J. Stevens

Selective Service Board 13
23 Harrison St.
E. Orange N.J.

Gentlemen:

I have been advised to write you, and state the case of The Newark Eagles Baseball Club, which is faced with the induction of it's 13th ballplayer. I am writing mainly because of the big part the baseball team plays in the lives of the Negroes of New Jersey. It is about the only healthy outdoor recreational program they have. There are practically no bowling alleys, skating rinks, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc, and the baseball is as a result is really important.

Please do not question my patriotism in asking you to review this case. I am sure Mrs. Wm. Hamilton Osbourne of CDVO, Mrs Fitzpartic of NCCS, Mrs Jacoby of JWB, will all testify to the fact I have been 100% in my efforts of volunteer work.

I am writing you because the player in question is not only important to the ball club, but I believe there has been a misunderstanding in his case. His papers state he left essential work for non essential work, and I know he did not report to the ballclub until the newspapers published a story that the baseball was considered essential. Aside from that fact, he has a knee that had caused the army to place him in 4F. We have always had a team of young men, and as a result we have lost more to the service than any of the other teams. I was happy to have them go, and proud of the contribution they have made, but they were all well and able. The man I am writing about, Leonard Pearson, has made no effort to avoid service I am sure, but was declared physically unfit. As a result I planned on him, and losing him at this time will really work a hardship on the club. Would it be possible to let him finish the baseball season? This would mean about three months more with us.

Please understand my motive for writing this letter. While I am of course interested in the ballclubs welfare, I honestly believe it is important to the community. Thank you for any consideration you give the case.

Very Truly Yours